GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3711
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
MINIMUM WAGES OF RURAL AND URBAN WORKERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average wages and earnings of a rural and urban worker recorded during each of the last three years;

(b) the linkages and computation between the rural and urban wages and poverty line; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to workout a policy to establish a relationship between minimum wages, poverty line and dignified living conditions for a family?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a): On the basis of survey which is conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation after every five years, the average/salary earnings by the casual wage labourers for the country as a whole in rural and urban areas during 2004-05 is estimated to be Rs. 48.89 and Rs. 68.68 per day respectively. The average wage/salary earnings per person received by regular wage/salaried employees for the country as a whole in rural and urban areas during 2004-05 is, however, estimated to be Rs. 133.81 and Rs. 193.73 per day respectively.

(b) & (c): Wages are generally determined by market conditions. Above-stated wage rates have been computed on the basis of the results obtained from the quinquennial Survey undertaken by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The minimum wages are fixed/revised by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 taking into account prevalent wage rates, poverty line etc. as well as the norms recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference, 1957 and the judgement of the Hon`ble Supreme Court in case of Reptakos Brett and Co. Vs. its Workmen.